

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

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CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 170

August 15, 1960

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THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW SECURITY PACT

The July 1 issue concerning the New Security Pact and Christian activities was written by the Japanese editor, Rev. Mr. Kaname Tsukahara and translated by Rev. Mr. Vern Rossman of AVACO.

On June 22 the exchange of instruments formally establishing the new treaty took place between the former Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Fujiyama and the American Ambassador, Mr. Douglas MacArthur. For the present the problems were over and the demonstrations which had been so violent subsided. The Kishi Cabinet resigned in July and after much negotiation the Ikeda cabinet was formed. The people also look forward hopefully to a general election this Fall. The people have become calm, their minds are at ease and the former (pre-pact) peaceful conditions have returned. Consequently, the security pact will become an important issue in the struggle between the socialists and the Liberal party in the next election.

STUDY GROUP TO "PRESERVE DEMOCRACY" FORMED

Pastors of the United Church of Christ interested in the subject of "preserving democracy" met at the Mitake Church in Tokyo on June 27. There are many different opposing opinions among the pastors, some for and some against demonstrations as well as some for and some opposed to the new treaty. At the sessions pastors with different opinions frankly discussed what they should do to preserve democracy as Christians at the present time. The purpose of the meetings is not to make decisions.

United Church of Christ pastors in charge are: Rev. Mr. Junichi Asano, Rev. Mr. Masahisa Suzuki, Rev. Mr. Takeshi Takasaki and Rev. Mr. Teruji Hirayama. About fifty persons attended the meeting at Mitake Church. The last speaker was Dr. Ohira Zengo, who's views were written in an earlier Spring issue. Plans are to hold further meetings from time to time.

ICU POLICY REGARDING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

American supporters of International Christian University have gone on record in strong defense of the students and faculty members of the school who have expressed their opinions in the recent Japanese political crisis.

Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, ICU president, received a report to this effect today from Dr. John Coventry Smith, chairman of the executive committee of the Japan International Christian University Foundation in New York.

Dr. Yuasa, in a report to the foundation dated June 19, wrote: "What has been reported as anti-American demonstrations by the ICU students have turned out, on a thorough investigation, to be nothing but an almost malicious misrepresentation by a news-hungry reporter." This "irresponsible reporting," he said, "started the most unfortunate chain reaction."

In his interpretation, the ICU president said, the primary concern of the faculty members and students taking part in political activities was "the defense of democracy in Japan and maintenance of peace in the world." He declared that "there has never been and is not now any conscious anti-American sentiment or movement at ICU."

The foundation in its resolution expressed full concurrence with Dr. Yuasa's views. It quoted and drew special attention to the following policy statement of Dr. Yuasa:

"ICU, true to the spirit of universal human rights, upholds the basic principle of freedom of speech and action for all citizens of democratic Japan; and ICU insists that this freedom must be exercised with a sense of responsibility."

In times of crisis, the resolution continued, adherence to this policy "may involve adverse publicity for the university," but "(this board) believes that the basic right of freedom of thought and expression is far more significant than the fear of superficial,

inaccurate and possibly unfavorable publicity."

"CHURCH AND GROUP LIFE LABORATORY" LEADERS LEAVE FOR WORSHIP IN
NEW ZEALAND

Rev. Mr. Richard Merritt and Miss Asei Nakagawa, secretary of the workshop left for New Zealand to participate in a similar workshop being held there.

Forty participants from many different fields of church life and from many parts of Japan gathered at the worship held at KEEP. It was a great learning experience for the staff of thirteen. For some it was their first time, but preparatory staff meetings were a big help in training them in the techniques. The specialists from abroad remained in the background as consultants. Miss Nakagawa said that "since this (technique) had its roots in North America and that there has been a difficulty with the bi-lingual problem, they are not yet able to prove whether culture as such will have much to do with its success or not. In the last workshop some of the program was changed considerably. Some of the techniques used in the U.S.A. are not as successful here. Although they feel great use can be made of this project, there is some question whether this western approach is the answer here in Japan. This last workshop was a remarkable learning experience for all concerned. But we feel we must proceed slowly and critically."

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The conference was held from July 26-28 at Lake Nojiri in Nagano Prefecture. The theme of the conference this year was "The Holy Spirit and Needs of the Hour." Dr. Louis Evans, Minister at Large of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was the main speaker and he has stayed on at the missionary summer resort acting in the role of pastor to the community, conducting church services, Bible classes, retreats and counselling. Other highlights of the conference program were: Rev. Mr. Hiraku Iwai who spoke on evangelistic work among the 'eta' class; Professor S. Jozaki of Kwansei Gakuin School of Theology who presented a splendid paper on the Dead Sea Scrolls; Dr. Sidney Bunker, president of Jaffra College, Ceylon, talked on "Christian Mission and Asian Ferment." Dr. Floyd Ross spoke on "Depth Psychology and World Religions" and a discussion was held on the "Aspects of the Human Personality."

Dr. A.J. Stirewalt, a missionary since 1905 presided over Memorial service Honoring the many missionaries who had labored in this land in the past.

The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries was organized in 1936 as the successor to the federation of Christian Missions which had served since 1902 as the formal "clearing house" for missionary activity in Japan. In 1936 it was organized into a body for fellowship, education, and inspiration. It aims at bringing together

missionaries of all confessions in an atmosphere of freedom and voluntary unity that can both enrich and strengthen the cause of Christ in Japan. Membership is on a voluntary basis of individual missionaries.

The officers for 1959-1960 were Dr. William Bray, president; Rev. Mr. Anders Hoaas, vice-president; Dr. Mary McCrimmon, Secretary and Rev. Mr. Calvin Parker, treasurer. The newly elected officers for 1960-1961 are: Rev. Mr. Thomas Forester president; Rev. Mr. Carl Bruinooge, vice-president; Miss Pauline Starn, secretary and Rev. Mr. Paul Johnson treasurer. The FCM publication, The Japan Christian Quarterly, continues under the editorship of Dr. Esther Hibbard. The Publication Committee members are: Dr. Richard Drummond, chairman; Dr. Esther Hibbard, Rev. Mr. Malcolm Carrick, Rev. Mr. Philip Williams, Mrs. Mary Meynardie and Rev. Mr. William Weiss.

Dr. Evans was also invited to speak at the Evangelical Missionary Association of Japan Conference held at Karuizawa and was very warmly received. Dr. William Bray and Rev. Mr. Forester also attended the conference.

